



BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for

1957



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**MEMBERS OF THE HALESOWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL,
1957**

Mayor

Councillor P. W. SCOTT, J.P.

Deputy Mayor

Councillor P. TIMMINS

Aldermen

L. HARPER

W. HODGETTS

W. PARKES, C.C.

F. L. ROSE, J.P. C. Ald.

C. WILLETTS, C.C.

Councillors

Central Ward

Miss E. M. BRIDGE

E. C. EMERY

P. TIMMINS

North Ward

S. W. FIELD

N. GARNER

Miss D. L. PARKES, J.P.

South Ward

D. C. HERBERT

G. A. SOUTHALL, C.C.

Mrs. E. SMITH

East Ward

H. DAVIES, C.C.

P. W. SCOTT

A. H. SPRING

West Ward

H. A. NEALE

J. F. TROMANS

A. WHITEHOUSE

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

R. L. CORLETT, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

A. M. NELSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (*until March, 1957*)

J. D. TERRELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (*from July, 1957*)

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

A. ARCHER (a.b.c.)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

A. R. HUMPHRIES (a.b.c.)

Additional Public Health Inspector :

R. MATHER (a.b.c.)

Pupil Public Health Inspectors :

K. ADAMS

R. CASSON (*until April, 1957*)

Chief Clerk :

G. W. J. LEWIS

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health :

MRS. I. ROUSE

Clerks :

MRS. H. DEELEY

MISS J. PARKES

MISS M. COLEY

MRS. M. GRAINGER (Welfare Foods)

- (a) Public Health Inspector's Certificate.
- (b) Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.
- (c) Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

Council House,
Halesowen.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1957.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1957.

The year was a memorable one for us for two special reasons, firstly the visit on April 23rd, fortunately a day of glorious sunshine, of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and H.R.H. Prince Philip and secondly the celebration of the 21st Anniversary of the granting of the Charter to Halesowen.

The following figures are of interest:—

	<i>Estimated Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Deaths under one year per 1,000 births</i>	<i>Total deaths all ages</i>	<i>Crude death rate</i>
1936 ...	34,370	16.77	63.03	350	10.1
1957 ...	42,950	14.25	26.1	387	9.0

The number of inhabited houses during the same period has risen from 9,700 to 14,021.

In comparing the statistics of the two years 1936 and 1957 certain facts stand out:—

	<i>Diphtheria Notifications</i>	<i>Diphtheria Deaths</i>	<i>Tuberculosis Notifications</i>	<i>Tuberculosis Deaths</i>
1936 ...	30	3	42	27
1957 ...	Nil	Nil	10	3

It is of interest to note that Halesowen Council offered free immunisation against diphtheria towards the end of 1935 and by the end of 1936, 1,300 children had been immunised.

The deaths from tuberculosis had fallen to 10 in 1952, but the notifications did not drop to under 30 until 1955. The decrease in the number of deaths is largely due to streptomycin and other new drugs and also to chest surgery. Similarly, penicillin and other antibiotics have largely conquered puerperal fever.

On the whole the health of the Borough has been well maintained.

Commencing in mid-September in common with other districts we suffered from an epidemic of influenza which, because of its site of origin, was called Asian Influenza. It proved of great nuisance value, but on the whole it could be considered to be of a mild type. There were three deaths attributed to influenza, the same number as in 1956, but an increase in deaths from pneumonia was noticed, 22 against 13. There were 679 notified cases of measles, 330 of whom were under five years of age. Fortunately there were no deaths but it was necessary to admit 9 children to hospital with this illness and its complications. We have a high incidence of measles every other year, 1957 being an expected year for an outbreak.

I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support and to express my gratitude to Mr. Archer and his staff and to Mrs. Rouse for their willing help at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. L. CORLETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions

Area of the district	5,247 acres
Population census, 1951	39,884
Population mid 1957	42,950
Rateable value, 1957	£431,585
Sum represented by the penny rate	£1,750
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1957	14,021
Number of persons per house	3.06

The Borough of Halesowen is in the northern part of the County of Worcester. The larger industrial plants in the Borough comprise the manufacturing of tube and tube fittings, the manufacture and machining of heavy forgings for the marine, electrical and mining industries, the production of die blocks for the drop forging industry, drop forging, the polishing of stainless steel, and the manufacture of brick and fireclay goods. There is one small colliery in the Borough. The lighter industries include the making of buttons, spades, shovels, forks, electric motors, and the manufacture of clothes.

VITAL STATISTICS

(a) Live Births:	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	301	...	302	...	603
Illegitimate	7	...	2	...	9
	<hr/> 308		<hr/> 304		<hr/> 612

(b) Still Births:				
Legitimate	9	...	1	10
Illegitimate	—	...	—	—
	<hr/> 9		<hr/> 1	<hr/> 10

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	14.25
Birth rate for England and Wales	16.1

DEATHS	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
	216	171	387

Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...	9.01
Area comparability factor	1.26
Adjusted death rate	11.35
Death rate for England and Wales	11.5
Infant mortality rate	26.1
Infant mortality rate for England and Wales	23.0

The adjusted death rate is obtainable by multiplying the crude death rate by the area comparability factor.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	10	6	16
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	10	6	16
	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	<i>Total deaths</i>	<i>Under 1 month</i>
Congenital abnormalities	5	2
Prematurity	4	3
Pneumonia	5	3
Atelectasis	1	1
Hypoprothrombinaemia	1	1
	—	—
	16	10
	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATHS

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	9	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	9
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	21	13
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	30	31
18. Coronary disease, angina	38	19
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	5
20. Other heart disease	21	31
21. Other circulatory disease	9	6
22. Influenza	3	—
23. Pneumonia	10	12
24. Bronchitis	17	6
25. Other disease of respiratory system	2	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
28. Nephritis, and nephrosis	4	1
29. Hyperlasia of prostate	4	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	2	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	16	12
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	—
34. All other accidents	1	2
35. Suicide	8	5
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	<hr/> 216	<hr/> 171

Death Rates from respiratory tuberculosis, England and Wales, per million population	95
Corresponding figure for Halesowen, per million population	69.9
Cancer of the lung and bronchus per million, England and Wales	426
Corresponding figure for Halesowen (10 deaths)	232.8

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services in the Borough of Halesowen

1. (a) *Public Health Officers.*

The staff of the Public Health Department is given on page 3.

(b) *Laboratory facilities.*

The work is carried out at the Worcester County Laboratory by the County Analyst, Mr. M. M. Love, F.R.I.C.

Bacteriological work is done by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester, under the Medical Director, Dr. R. J. Henderson.

2. *Ambulance Service.*

The ambulance service is controlled by the Worcestershire County Council. There are five ambulances and six whole time drivers. The ambulance station is situated in the Council depot but the County Council have obtained a site on which they are to build a new ambulance station.

The hospitals used by the inhabitants of the Borough in addition to those in the City of Birmingham are the Corbett Hospital, Wordsley Hospital, the Guest Hospital, Dudley, and Bromsgrove General Hospital.

Maternity cases are taken to Mary Stevens Hospital, Stourbridge, the Lucy Baldwin Hospital, Stourport, and the Loveday Street Maternity Hospital, Birmingham.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are carried in the two ambulances at Hayley Green Hospital.

3. *Nursing in the Home.*

The Worcestershire County Council are the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the area. They have also arranged a "Home Help" service in conjunction with the W.V.S.

4. *Tuberculosis.*

Sanatorium treatment and the provision of dispensary treatment are the responsibility of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

5. *Infectious Disease.*

Infectious disease cases are admitted to Hayley Green Hospital, which is recognised by the General Nursing Council as a training school for fever nurses. This Hospital is under the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and administered under Group 17, Dudley, Stourbridge and District Hospital Group, Birmingham Region.

6. *School Clinics, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Sessions.*

These are provided by the County Council and the district has three centres: Hill and Cakemore, Halesowen and Cradley.

7. *Welfare Foods.*

Distribution of welfare foods is carried out from the Infant Welfare Centres, the Public Health Department, and nine shops in the Borough.

SECTION C

WATER

The water supply to the area is satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity. The supply is derived mainly from the Churchill Pumping Station and the Hayley Green works, with smaller quantities from other pumping stations at Kinver and Prestwood.

The Hayley Green supply is from the Birmingham Corporation Elan Aqueduct and the Kinver and Prestwood supplies from the Smestow Valley. The water is not liable to plumbo solvency but periodic samples for lead are taken by the Company.

The average chemical results for 1957 were:—

	<i>Waxland Road</i>	<i>Fire Station, Hagley Road</i>
Number of Samples	11	52
	<i>Parts per million</i>	
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	71	65
Chlorides (Cl)	14.4	14.1
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	Trace	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	0.009	0.008
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	3.1	2.9
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C) ...	0.25	0.30
Temporary Hardness	65	60
Permanent Hardness	36	30
Total Hardness	101	90
Iron (Fe)	0.04	0.17
Manganese (Mn)	Nil	Nil
Free Chlorine	0.01	Nil

The following main extensions were carried out during 1957:

		<i>Lineal yards laid of main</i>				
		<i>1½"</i>	<i>2"</i>	<i>3"</i>	<i>4"</i>	<i>6"</i>
HALESOWEN						
	Central Re-development				577	249
HASBURY						
	Bassnage Farm Estate				436	290
	Hasbury Farm Estate				17	
HAWNE						
	Furnace Park				47	
HILL						
	Halesowen Road				96	
CAKEMORE						
	Feldon Lane			5	26	6
	Fairfield Lane	73				
LAPAL						
	Lapal					126
	Manor Abbey				42	
	Manor Lane					54
CRADLEY						
	Drews Holloway		14		72	

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Sewage from the Borough, together with a certain amount of storm water, is drained into various branch sewers of the Upper Stour Valley Sewerage Board. The branch sewers discharge into the main high level outfall sewer. Treatment of the flow is carried out at the Whittingham irrigation farms, and the disposal works at Quarry Bank.

At the farm, treatment consists of passing sewage through a detritus tank and to the various distribution centres for irrigation on the land. The disposal works are relatively modern. After removal of detritus the sewage passes through primary settlement tanks and finally humus tanks before discharge into the River Stour. Sludge is drawn from the various units into digestion tanks and then dried on open beds.

At the farms new pumping plants and detritus de-sludging gear is being installed. At the same time a review is being made of the present system of distribution and irrigation. A scheme to provide additional treatment facilities at the disposal works is being prepared.

Surcharging occurs in a number of sewers serving the Borough. Plans for the duplication of certain lengths have been completed

but the work will not be carried out until additional disposal facilities are available.

We are indebted to O. C. Rowe, Esq., Engineer to the Upper Stour Valley Main Sewerage Board, for this information.

SECTION D

HOUSING

Details on the inspection of houses are given later in the report.

In 1957 the number of houses built was 407 (194 by the local authority, 211 privately and 2 by Worcestershire County Council).

Before the war 1,844 houses were built by the Halesowen council and since then, up to 1957, 1,579 permanent and 86 temporary houses have been completed.

Four families were rehoused during 1957 on the grounds of tuberculosis, in the interests of the patients and in the hope that extra accommodation would lessen the risk of infection.

SECTION E

Prevalence of, Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SMALLPOX

No cases were reported during the year.

SCARLET FEVER

Eighteen cases were reported, as against thirty-two for the previous year.

DIPHTHERIA

No cases were reported during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The work is the responsibility of the County Council and the Department continues to carry on the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics on their behalf. The number of children treated at the Clinics during 1957 was as follows:—

	<i>Primary Treatment Completed</i>	<i>Boosting Doses</i>
Under five years	449	128
Five to 15 years	21	236
	<hr/> 470	<hr/> 364

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

There were four cases of poliomyelitis reported during the year. Two were non-paralytic and the other two paralytic. There were no deaths. The poliomyelitis virus was type one.

ERYSIPELAS

There was one case reported during the year.

MEASLES

There were 679 cases of measles reported this year as against 15 cases reported for last year. We expect a high incidence of measles here every two years.

MEASLES NOTIFICATIONS

	WARDS					
	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Total</i>
January ...	—	—	1	—	2	3
February	2	1	—	—	—	3
March ...	—	4	1	15	—	20
April ...	2	12	2	14	4	34
May	23	60	8	24	19	134
June	43	93	5	8	47	196
July	42	115	21	7	33	218
August ...	17	14	32	2	1	66
September	1	1	1	1	—	4
October ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
November	—	—	—	1	—	1
December	—	—	—	—	—	—
	130	300	71	72	106	679

FOOD POISONING

There were thirteen cases of Food Poisoning during the year.
Outbreaks due to identified agents Nil
Outbreaks of undiscovered cause Nil
Single cases—agent identified 2. Unknown cause 11

In only two cases was a pathological organism isolated, in each case it was *Salmonella typhimurium*, but there did not appear to be any connection between these two cases.

WHOOPING COUGH

There were thirty-three cases of Whooping Cough reported during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Sixteen new cases were repored during the year. They were

all pulmonary. There were 3 deaths as against 1 for the previous year. The number of cases remaining on the register for the last two years were as follows:—

		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1956	.....	139	121	9	15
1957	.....	126	116	4	9

NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1957

<i>Age Periods</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
0-	.....	—	—	—	—
1-	.....	—	—	—	—
5-	.....	—	—	—	—
10-	.....	—	—	—	—
15-	.....	—	6	—	—
20-	.....	—	—	—	—
25-	.....	3	1	—	—
35-	.....	3	—	—	—
45-	.....	3	—	—	—
55-	.....	—	—	—	—
65-	.....	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown		—	—	—	—
		9	7	—	—
		—	—	—	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1957

Disease	Age									
	Total	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	65-	unknown
Scarlet Fever	18	-	1	3	13	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	679	30	136	164	335	3	1	7	-	3
Whooping Cough	33	3	9	13	8	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	74	7	8	2	4	3	1	34	14	1
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	13	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	1	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	7	-	1	-	-	3	2	1	-	-

Council House,

Halesowen.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The work of the Public Health Department has been handicapped by the difficulty of getting sufficient technical staff. This has meant that vital matters such as slum clearance, food hygiene and air pollution have had much less attention than their importance warrants. This is a serious matter to everyone because the combination of technical knowledge and legislation ought to make it possible to advance the cause of environmental hygiene quite substantially within the next few years. Progressive people are becoming more and more impatient for example, at the sight of dirty chimneys, both domestic and industrial, and of unsatisfactory food handling practices.

The refuse collection service which is organised by the department was again reasonably satisfactory and relatively cheap. The aim is, of course, a regular weekly collection, something which the public can have as soon as it is prepared to pay for it.

I should like to pay tribute to the Town Clerk, Mr. A. Basterfield, O.B.E., Dr. R. L. Corlett, fellow officers for their help and advice, and to my own staff and workmen for their interest and enthusiasm. I should also like to thank the Chairman, Alderman C. Willetts, C.C., and members of the Public Health Committee for their support.

A. ARCHER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

During the year three clearance areas were declared, involving a total of 103 houses. These areas include most of the really bad properties in the Borough. In addition, 22 other houses were dealt with as individually unfit houses. The Council have over the course of the last few years dealt with all the serious, long standing cases of overcrowding, and are now allocating a larger proportion of houses to people living in unfit property.

The work of slum clearance will need to be kept in the foreground of the department's programme if all the unfit houses are to be dealt with by 1963. As soon as possible it is proposed to carry out an additional survey of the privately owned properties in the Borough to get an up-to-date figure of those which it is felt ought to be demolished as unfit. A matter which will have to be considered by the Government sooner or later is legislation to enable local authorities to require that sub-standard houses should be reconditioned by the addition of such amenities as baths and hot water supply.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	87
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2. Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	36
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3. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	51
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4. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	21
---	----

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted	nil
--	-----

Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	9
--	---

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which a closing order has been made	1
---	---

Dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made:—

- 154, Coombs Road, Halesowen.
- 217, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.
- 219, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.
- 221, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.
- 223, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.
- 225, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.
- 227, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.
- 229, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.
- 231, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.
- 4, Rumbow, Halesowen.
- 5, Rumbow, Halesowen.
- 6, Rumbow, Halesowen.
- 7, Rumbow, Halesowen.
- 17, Furnace Hill, Halesowen.
- 59a, Windmill Hill, Cradley.
- 7, Blue Ball, Lane, Cradley.
- 9, Blue Ball Lane, Cradley.
- 11, Blue Ball Lane, Cradley.
- 30, Maypole Hill, Cradley.
- 32, Maypole Hill, Cradley.
- 34, Maypole Hill, Cradley.
- 72, Two Gates, Cradley. (Closing Order).

Dwelling houses demolished:—

- 10, Gaunts Yard, Halesowen.
- 11, Gaunts Yard, Halesowen.
- 12, Gaunts Yard, Halesowen.
- 13, Gaunts Yard, Halesowen.
- 14, Gaunts Yard, Halesowen.
- 15, Gaunts Yard, Halesowen.
- 7, Mill Lane, Halesowen.
- 8, Mill Lane, Halesowen.
- 10, Belle Vale, Halesowen.
- 12, Belle Vale, Halesowen.
- Nursery Cottage, Manor Lane, Halesowen.
- 83, Windmill Hill, Cradley.
- 85, Windmill Hill, Cradley.
- 128a, Colley Gate, Cradley.
- 128b, Colley Gate, Cradley.

HOUSING SUBSIDIES ACT, 1956

Number of certificates signed by the Medical Officer of Health as to unfitness of Council owned property 11

- 10, Gaunts Yard, Halesowen.
- 11, Gaunts Yard, Halesowen.

- 12, Gaunts Yard, Halesowen.
- 13, Gaunts Yard, Halesowen.
- 14, Gaunts Yard, Halesowen.
- 15, Gaunts Yard, Halesowen.
- 168, Canal Side, Halesowen.
- 170, Canal Side, Halesowen.
- 19, Great Cornbow, Halesowen.
- 47, Two Gates, Cradley.
- 49, Two Gates, Cradley.

HOUSING ACT, 1949, IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) Number of applications dealt with by local authority	19
(b) Number approved	14
(c) Number rejected	5
(d) Number under consideration	1
(e) Number withdrawn	4

RENT ACT, 1957

This Act came into force in July, and eighty-one applications for certificates of disrepair were received for the six months ending 31st December, 1957.

(a) Number of applications for certificates of disrepair	81
(b) Number of certificates issued	43
(c) Number of undertakings accepted	22
(d) Work done after service of notice of proposal to issue certificate	5
(e) Number of applications for certificates of disrepair awaiting approval	11

FOOD MANUFACTURE, PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION

MILK SUPPLY

Practically all the milk sold in the Borough is heat treated, and the number of licences issued remained unchanged. During 1957 the following licences were in force:—

Distributors' licence in respect of heat treated milk	19
Distributors' licence in respect of sterilised milk	74

ICE CREAM

Many of the small shops in the Borough sell ice cream as a subsidiary item to sweets, confectionery, etc., but there are now no manufacturers. The following registrations were in force at the end of 1957:—

Registration for storage and sale only	141
--	-----

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING

Although not a Food and Drugs authority two officers of the department are appointed by the County Council as sampling officers, and a small amount of food sampling is carried out as indicated by the table below. This work would be much more extensive were it not for the staff shortage which has been mentioned previously.

Apples ...	4	Butter ...	1
Lemon juice ...	1	Dried milk ...	3
Sausages ...	2	Orange juice ...	2
Vinegar ...	1	Tea ...	1
Cochineal ...	1	Faggot ...	1
Caraway seed ...	1	Dressed crab ...	1
Crab paste ...	1	Cream of tartar ...	1
Cheese spread ...	1	Minced beef ...	1

During the year several consignments of apples were found to be contaminated with varying amounts of arsenic and lead. In some cases the apples were condemned, and in other cases, they were released after thorough washing. With the increasing use of sprays containing potentially poisonous substances, it is more than ever necessary to watch carefully for this sort of contamination of foodstuffs.

Samples taken in the Borough by the officers of the Worcestershire County Council were as follows:—

- 48 formal milk samples.
- 483 informal milk samples.
- 1 formal sample of miscellaneous food.
- 21 informal samples of miscellaneous foods.
- 2 informal samples of drugs.

The total number of samples taken was 555.

The only deficiencies detected were in the fat content of milk, and in each case the composite samples were found to be genuine, the deficiencies being due either to the interval between the milkings or poor cows.

The department is indebted to Mr. M. M. Love, F.R.I.C., and his staff for their help, to Mr. E. A. Spencer, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures, Worcestershire County Council, and to Mr. N. T. Jones, Divisional Inspector, for the information concerning samples taken by Worcestershire County Council.

FOOD PREMISES

Regular inspections were carried out at premises in the Borough where food is manufactured, handled or sold. The general standard at most of the premises was good, but it is felt that this can only be maintained if continuous supervision is exercised in

the way of regular visits. Improvements were secured, these being mainly the provision of wash hand basins and supplies of hot water.

Details of inspections and improvements carried out are as follows:—

Butchers (Inspections 108)	
Improvements	10
Bakehouses (Inspections 37)	
Redecorations	3
Cafes, canteens, etc. (Inspections 53)	
Fishmongers, poulterers (Inspections 17)	
Fried fish shops (Inspections 57)	
Improvements	1
Greengrocers, fruiterers (Inspections 69)	
Redecorations	1
Improvements	11
Ice cream (Inspections 49)	
Markets (Inspections 32)	
Other food preparing premises (Inspections 6)	
Slaughterhouses (Inspections 1,025)	
Licensed premises (Inspections 91)	
Redecorations	1
Improvements	12
School canteens (Inspections 49)	

INSPECTION OF MEAT

All the animals killed in the Borough were inspected. The quality of the meat was good, and the butchers take a pride in producing clean, well-dressed carcasses. Details of meat inspected are shown in the table on page 23.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following is a list of foodstuffs, other than meat, found to be unfit for human consumption.

Vegetables	425 cans
Fruit	395 cans
Meat	168 cans
Milk	65 cans
Cream	13 cans
Fish	56 cans
Fish paste	5 jars
Soup	4 cans
Spaghetti	2 cans
Crabmeat	23 cans
Tinned chicken	1 can
Cheese processed	3 packets
Cheese Cheddar	221 lbs.

Salad cream	1 jar
Sauce	2 bottles
Apples	1 box
Potatoes	25 tons

List of Food Premises in the area.

Greengrocers	51
Cafes	11
Grocers	122
Butchers	31
Licensed premises	64
Fish shops	23
General food dealers	34
Chemists	14
Bakehouses	6
Confectioners	29
School kitchens	31
Factory canteens	42
Total:	<hr/> 458 <hr/>

Number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 153

RODENT CONTROL

Treatments were carried out at 63 dwelling houses and 51 business premises. In every case the treatments were to deal with very small infestations.

FACTORIES

146 visits were paid to factories in connexion with various matters including sanitary conveniences, canteens, and means of escape in case of fire.

SHOPS AND MARKETS

Apart from regular visits paid to the markets and food shops, no visits were paid to other types of shop.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Seven licences were issued for the keeping of pets.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1953

There are 36 licensed slaughtermen.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

During 1957 four licences were issued authorising persons to station movable dwellings on land in various parts of the Borough.

MEAT INSPECTION

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Animals slaughtered and inspected	520	2	59	5,873	1,423	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	1	6	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	37	—	—	38	18	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	7.7	—	—	0.6	1.7	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12	—	—	—	7	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.3	—	—	—	0.5	—
CYSTICERCOSIS:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight condemned 12 cwts. 3 qrs. 11 lbs.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS

The following licences were in force:—

- 91 for storage of petroleum spirit.
- 10 for petroleum mixture.
- 1 for storage of calcium carbide.

AIR POLLUTION

The five stations at which air pollution is recorded were maintained during the year. As in previous years the results show that pollution in Hayley Green is much less than in other parts of the Borough.

A considerable number of visits were paid to industrial establishments in connexion with air pollution, the main problems in this Borough being those caused by the emission of smoke from brick works, and the emission of dust and grit from various industrial processes. An additional cause of complaint was the smoking and fuming of a colliery tip.

The operation of the Clean Air Act, 1956, will, it is hoped, enable the Council to bring more pressure to bear on some firms who are loathe to spend money on preventing needless pollution. In many cases the means of prevention are known, and it is only a matter of installing the correct type of apparatus and seeing that it is properly maintained.

It is interesting to note that whereas people frequently complain about the smoke and fumes from industrial plant, they rarely accept the fact that domestic chimneys are also a major cause of air pollution. In the near future surveys will be done, and preparatory work started with a view to advising the Council to establish smoke control areas in the Lapal district, and in the Furnace Park area. It is very much hoped that the population as a whole will support this policy.

AIR POLLUTION

There are five stations with deposit gauges and lead peroxide instruments. These are sited as follows:—

1. Hayley Green Hospital, Hayley Green, Halesowen.
2. Central Library, Council House, Halesowen.
3. Olive Hill County Primary School, Springfield Road, Blackheath.
4. Cradley County Modern School, Homer Hill, Cradley.
5. County Modern School, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.

The statistics for 1957 are set out below:—

Station	Monthly deposit of total solids in tons per square mile											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	4.43	5.08	8.47	4.21	11.72	8.30	13.19	6.22	7.88	4.25	5.29	10.96
2	9.32	8.82	10.62	7.37	18.70	15.89	15.12	10.19	12.70	7.85	6.70	11.77
3	8.54	9.34	8.27	8.51	14.55	13.71	14.21	8.81	12.01	9.14	8.01	13.28
4	7.70	7.80	9.09	6.21	18.16	12.02	13.34	8.73	11.88	6.28	5.21	10.62
5	8.14	7.07	7.51	6.70	14.11	10.97	11.21	7.11	9.94	5.74	5.00	9.90

Station	Weight of sulphur trioxide collected in milligrammes per 100 square centimetres per day											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	0.71	1.19	0.43	1.81	0.73	0.51	0.42	0.20	0.46	0.49	0.96	0.73
2	1.81	1.73	1.21	1.65	1.12	0.65	0.42	0.38	0.86	0.91	1.86	1.34
3	2.99	2.32	1.95	0.25	3.41	1.59	1.36	1.05	1.97	2.20	4.01	2.85
4	2.33	2.34	1.67	2.35	1.25	0.21	0.89	0.61	1.33	1.56	1.05	2.14
5	1.66	1.92	*	1.96	1.37	1.17	0.62	0.63	1.11	1.18	2.35	1.77

* Accidentally lost during determination

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The public cleansing service administered by the Public Health Department includes the collection and disposal of refuse and salvage. Street cleansing, gulley emptying, snow removal, and the control of public conveniences is done by the Borough Engineer & Surveyor's Department. The Public Health Department carries out the maintenance and servicing of the Council's vehicles, and an increasing number of miscellaneous items of equipment.

The new Council depot at Witley Hill, Halesowen, was completed in the autumn of 1957, and improved working conditions are increasing the efficiency of the Council's services.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse is collected by four side, and one end-loading vehicle. Five teams are employed in emptying some 15,000 dustbins from domestic and commercial premises. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, refuse being covered by ashes and by waste foundry sand. The tip at Mucklow Hill was in use throughout the year.

The labour position was most satisfactory. An incentive bonus scheme is in operation, and employees are able to increase their earnings to a figure well above the basic rate. The Council also paid 10/- a week to its employees by arrangement with the National Joint Council, so as to attract and retain Council workmen. Protective clothing in the form of mackintosh sets, overalls, and gloves is issued to the workmen, and the Council has been able by providing good working conditions to retain its staff. The number of staff changes during the year, the lowest since 1939, enabled collection intervals to be maintained with reasonable frequency.

DUSTBIN PROVISION

The Council continues to supply dustbins to private houses, but due to increased costs the annual charge has been increased from 5/- to 6/-. The total number issued was 390. Just over a quarter of the houses in the Borough now have a Council owned dustbin. As an experiment the size of dustbins issued was reduced from $3\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ cu.-ft. So far as can be judged the experiment is proving successful.

SALVAGE

The department continues to collect all types of salvageable material. Trailers for this purpose are attached to the refuse freighters, and, in addition, a separate collection of waste paper is made from business premises. The tonnage restriction imposed

by the mills continued throughout the year, although the Council was able to dispose of all the paper collected. The total income from sales was £2,626.

TRANSPORT

The public health department maintains all the vehicles and most of the mechanical equipment owned by the Council. At the end of 1957 the following vehicles were being repaired and serviced.

Public Health Department:

- 7 refuse freighters.
- 2 trucks.
- 2 vans.
- 2 angledozers.
- 1 official car (Humber "Imperial").

Highways and Parks Department:

- 5 trucks.
- 4 vans.
- 1 gulley emptier.
- 1 road sweeper.
- 2 tractors with trailers.
- 3 motor mowers.
- 1 motor roller.
- 1 motor boat.

PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURN
Cost Statement, 1957-58

<i>Item</i>	<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Collection</i> £	<i>Disposal</i> £	<i>Totals</i> £	<i>Percentage of</i> <i>total gross</i> <i>expenditure</i> %
1.	GROSS EXPENDITURE:				
(1)	Labour	10,817	2,310	13,127	48
(2)	Transport	9,552	3,284	12,836	48
(3)	Plant, equipment, land and buildings	656	—	656	3
(4)	Other items	89	276	365	1
(5)	Total gross expenditure	21,114	5,870	26,984	100
2.	GROSS INCOME	105	2,678	2,783	—
3.	NET COST	21,009	3,192	24,201	—
	UNIT COSTS				
4.	Gross cost per ton (labour only)	s. d. 16 5	s. d. 3 6	s. d. 19 11	
5.	Gross cost per ton (transport only)	14 7	4 11	19 6	
6.	Net cost per ton (all expenditure)	31 10	4 10	36 8	
7.	Net cost per 1,000 population	£ 489	£ 74	£ 563	
8.	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1,406	213	1,619	

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each house, per week 7½d.
Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each resident, per week 2½d.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Area (statute acres) ...	...	...	...	...	5,247
Population at 30th June, 1957 ...	...	...	...	...	42,950
Total refuse collected ...	...	...	...	...	13,190 tons
Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day ...	...	...	...	...	17.0
Number of premises from which refuse is collected ...	...	...	...	...	14,942
Premises from which collections are made weekly ...	...	...	...	...	0.3% of total
Average haul by collection vehicle to disposal point ...	...	...	...	...	2½ miles
Total refuse disposed of ...	...	...	...	...	13,190 tons
Method of disposal (salvage excluded)—controlled tipping ...	...	...	...	...	100 per cent.

SALVAGE AND TRADE REFUSE, INCOME AND TONNAGE

SALVAGE	Income £	Tonnage collected
(a) Raw kitchen waste ...	nil	nil
(b) Scrap metal ...	315	40
(c) Waste paper ...	2,255	298
(d) Other salvage ...	56	4 16 cwts.
(e) Totals	2,626	342 16 cwts.
TRADE REFUSE: (a) Income ...	£157	

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Drainage, public sewers	...	...	...	...	24
Drains	...	...	...	...	256
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	22
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	36
Food poisoning	...	...	...	...	21
Nuisances (Section 93)					
Premises	...	...	...	...	660
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	4
Dust or effluvia	...	...	...	...	—
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	1
Public Cleansing					
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	457
Salvage	...	...	...	...	6
Trade refuse	...	...	...	...	6
Tips	...	...	...	...	102
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	8
Smoke					
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	13
Observations	...	...	...	...	58
Visits to plant	...	...	...	...	16
Atmospheric pollution measurements	...	...	...	...	86
Movable dwellings	...	...	...	...	11
Verminous premises					
Council houses	...	...	...	...	32
Other houses	...	...	...	...	20
Factories					
With power	...	...	...	...	144
Without power	...	...	...	...	2
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	—
Pigstyes	...	...	...	...	4
LAND CHARGES	...	...	...	...	746
PETROLEUM ACTS	...	...	...	...	44
RODENT CONTROL	...	...	...	...	387
HOUSING ACTS					
Detailed house inspections	...	...	...	...	22
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	12
Slum clearance	...	...	...	...	145
RENT ACT, 1957	...	...	...	...	154
COUNCIL HOUSE APPLICATIONS	...	...	...	...	1,425

FOOD INSPECTION

Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Cafes, canteens, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Dairies, milk shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Fishmongers, poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Greengrocers, fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	199
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,025
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Cottagers' pigs	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
School canteens	49
Street vendors	—

FOOD SAMPLING

Other foods	10
Water	2

MISCELLANEOUS	122
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FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Cases in which defects were found

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>			
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Reference</i>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary convenience (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to home work)	—	—	—	—
Total	2	1	—	—

No prosecutions were instituted

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number of</i>			
	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by local authority	10	2	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority	234	144	5	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding outworker's premises) ...	—	—	—	—
	244	146	5	—

